

Winston-Salem City Council
APPROVED
April 7, 2025

**RESOLUTION DECLARING A WEEK OF MOURNING
IN MEMORY OF DR. VIRGINIA K. NEWELL**

WHEREAS, Dr. Virginia Kimbrough was born on October 7, 1917 in Advance, NC to William Kimbrough and Dinah Hill Kimbrough, the second youngest of nine children; and

WHEREAS, she graduated from Atkins High School in Winston-Salem, NC and received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mathematics from Talladega College in Talladega, AL and

WHEREAS, Dr. Newell returned to Atkins High School as a math teacher, where she met and later married George Fisher Newell in 1943; they later welcomed two daughters; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Newell earned a Master's Degree from New York University, and a Doctor of Education Degree from the University of Sarasota; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Virginia K. Newell was a Winston-Salem State University Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, where she was Chairman of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. She built the Computer Science Program and raised thousands of dollars to support it; and retired in 1985. Honoring Dr. Newell's contribution to the school, Winston-Salem State University renamed its computer facility to the Virginia K. Newell Academic Computer Center; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Newell has always been a visionary in education, sending one of her daughters to boarding school in Connecticut and her other daughter to Germany to participate in the Experiment in International Living Program; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Newell was the founder of the YWCA's "Best Choice Center," an academically focused program that provides afterschool care, enrichment activities, and summer camp for children of low-income families. Dr. Newell's passion for education continued with her involvement with the Math and Science Academy at Winston-Salem State University and tutoring students; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Dr. Virginia K. Newell was elected as one of the first African American females as a member of the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen (now City Council) for the East Ward. She served 16 years and worked tirelessly for better housing, racial unity, and economic independence; and

WHEREAS, in the East Ward, Dr. Newell initiated the African American bank, the East Winston Shopping Center, ten investment clubs, and served on an economic platform that developed and built Ivy Arms Apartments and Community Center; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Virginia K. Newell's unyielding dedication and commitment to service have made a positive difference in many lives, a role model for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Winston-Salem hereby declare a week of mourning in memory of Dr. Virginia K. Newell and express their deepest gratitude for her years of dedicated service to the citizens of Winston-Salem.